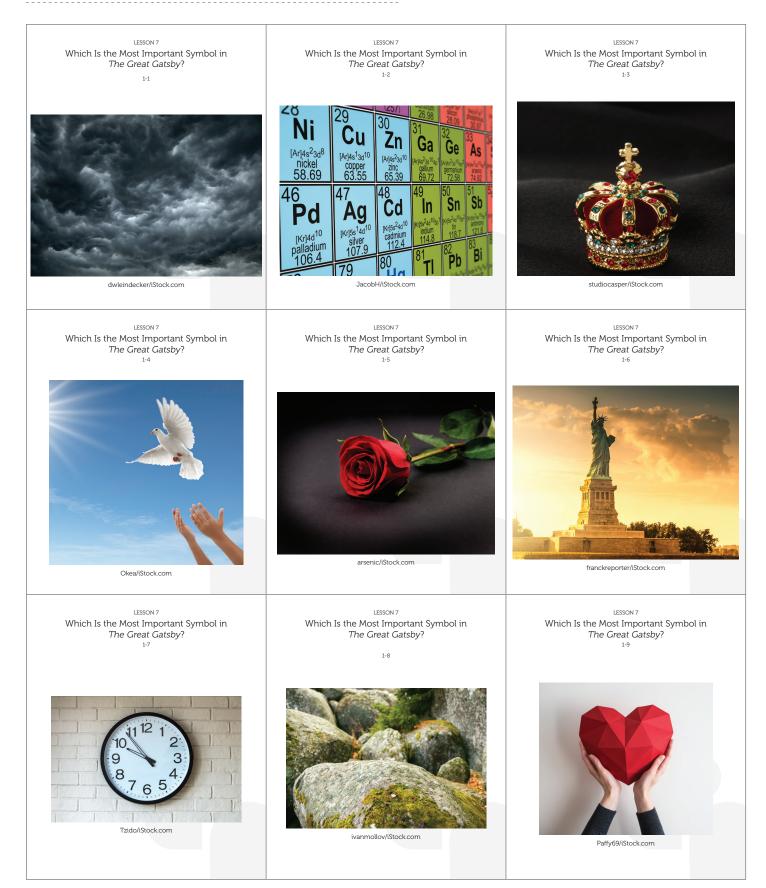
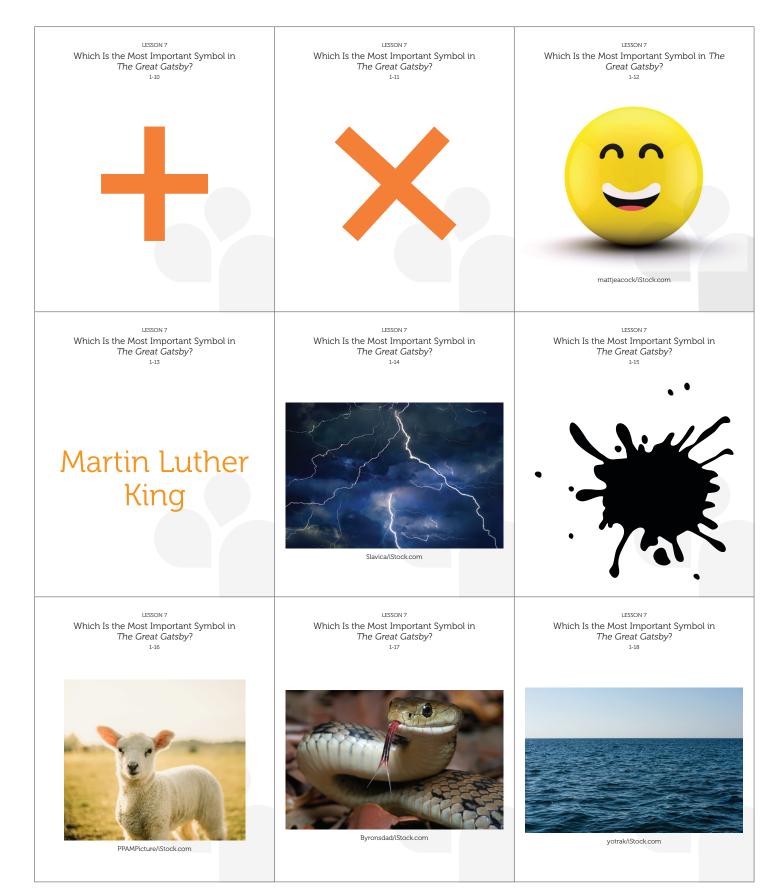
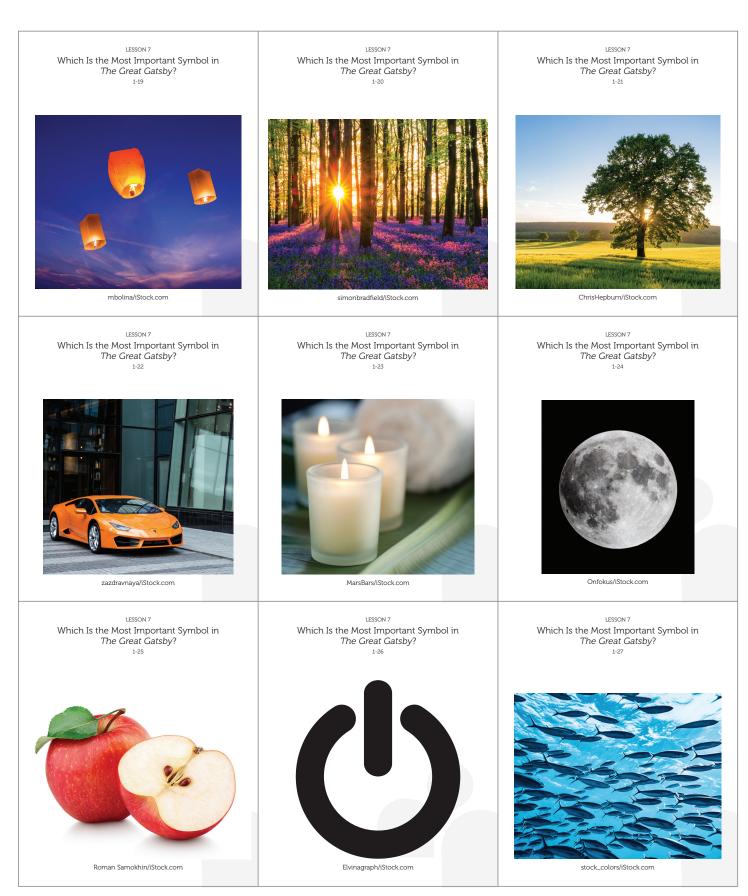
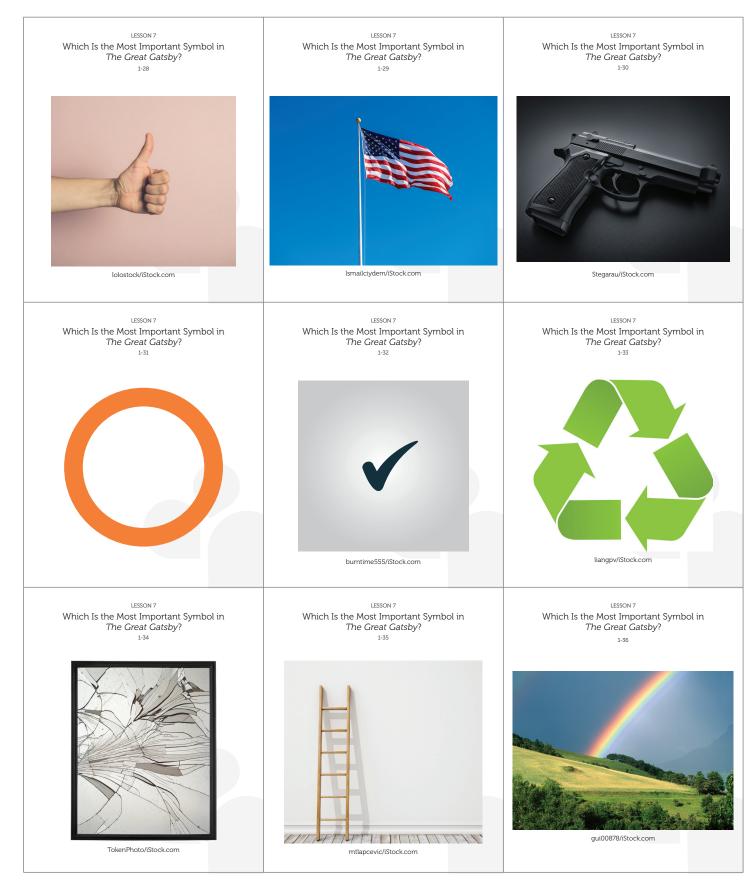
## ACTIVITY 1: SORTING AND CLASSIFYING









## **ACTIVITY 2: DIAMOND RANKING**

UESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-1

#### **Daisy Buchanan**

She embodies the daisy flower, which is fragile but also grows wild. She is a fragile person who can't make up her own mind. The daisy has a golden yellow centre surrounded by white petals, symbolising her outward purity and innocence but morally corrupt core. LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-2

#### The colour white

Associated with purity and innocence as well as possessing the deeper meaning of false purity or goodness. Daisy and Jordan are always seen in white and Gatsby meets Daisy for the first time in five years wearing white. White is used 49 times in relation to Daisy to represent her character and Gatsby's view of her as his innocent bride.

LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby?

#### Dr T.J. Eckleburg

Representative of the eyes of God, staring down at the moral decay of the 1920s. The faded paint could be interpreted to symbolise the degree to which humanity has lost its connection to God, through a loss of spiritual values and the growth of commercialism. The billboard signifies the hollowness of the American Dream staring down at the moral wasteland of the Valley of Ashes. LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in *The Great Gatsby*? 2-5

### The colour yellow

Yellow symbolises corruptness and things going bad or rotten. It also represents fake gold and show over substance. The yellow of Gatsby's car reflects his dishonesty and deception. ULESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby?

#### The Valley of Ashes

A by-product of capitalism, representing the moral and social decay resulting from the selfish pursuit of wealth. The Valley of Ashes resembles something dark and lifeless, and is a picture of absolute misery and poverty.

UESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-6

#### Eggs (East Egg and West Egg)

An egg is white on the outside and yellow on the inside, symbolising a false show of purity on the outside, but rotten and corrupt on the inside.

The East Egg represents old aristocracy and old money that has been passed down from generation to generation.

The West Egg represents the newly rich and the new money that the people who live inside it have earned.

LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby?

# The green light at the end of the dock

Symbolic of Gatsby's American Dream. It highlights the tension between his future aspirations and desire to relive the past by regaining the love of Daisy.

The artificial light represents Gatsby's dream as artificial and unrealistic. UESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-8

#### Weather and seasons

The weather in the novel matches the emotional and narrative tone of the story. The pouring rain of Gatsby and Daisy's reunion; the sun comes out as their love reawakens. Gatsby's climactic confrontation with Tom occurs on the hottest day of the summer. Wilson kills Gatsby on the first day of autumn. It's possible that the heat is symbolic of hell and damnation. LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-9

#### The colour green

Green symbolises growth and something to hope for and reach out for. It also represents wealth and prosperity and the power of money that Gatsby hopes to use to win Daisy back.

Green is also symbolic of envy, highlighting the fact that Gatsby desires something that already belongs to someone else.

Green is mentioned 18 times in the novel.

LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-10

## The colour grey

Grey symbolizes dreariness and the lack of life and/ or spirit. It signifies hopelessness and a lack of future. LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in *The Great Gatsby*? 2-11

### The colour gold

Golden, brass or gold has been used 15 times in the novel to symbolise wealth, riches and old money in particular.

Sometimes gold turns to yellow such as at Gatsby's house, demonstrating that the richness is only a cover and has no substance.

ULESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-13

## **Owl-Eyes**

He is elusive yet appears to be wise, knowledgeable and perceptive. He is dependable and there for Gatsby when no one else would be. He could also be viewed as an omen of death. LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in *The Great Gatsby*? 2-14

## Gatsby's house

The mansion symbolises the grandness and emptiness of the 1920s boom and the superficiality of new money. It also represents the character of Gatsby, and how he constantly reinvents himself at different points.

LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-16

## Gatsby's books

The books in Gatsby's library symbolise the superficiality of Gatsby, his lack of substance and fraudulent character. The books are there to create an appearance of intelligence, but their uncut pages reveal that they hadn't actually been read. UESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-17

## Tom Buchanan

Tom represents power, and in particular, the abuse of the power that he has been given. ULESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-12

#### Myrtle Wilson

Myrtle is symbolic of the novel's emphasis on class and status. She believes that she is socially 'above' her husband and his class, but then is below Tom's class and status. Her character shows how wealth and class are assumptions and façades.

> LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 215

## The colour blue

Blue symbolises being depressed, moody or unhappy.

Many things around Gatsby are blue. Blue has an ethereal and unrealistic quality.

LESSON 7 Which Is the Most Important Symbol in The Great Gatsby? 2-18

### Gatsby

Gatsby represents the result of a dream deferred. He overestimated what it would be like with Daisy, so much so that she could never in all her life live up to his expectations. The more that the hope did not come alive, the more he dreamed, and that made it all the worse for him and Daisy.